



**Edgewood City Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Horn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked for a moment of silence followed by leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Deputy City Clerk Riffle announced there was a quorum and that Councilmember Pierce sent an email explaining that he could not attend the meeting and requested to be excused.

*Councilmember Chotas made the Motion to excuse Councilmember Pierce from the meeting; second by Council President Horn. Approved 4/0.*

**Attendees**

John Dowless, Mayor  
Richard Alan Horn, Council President  
Lee Chotas, Council Member  
Susan Lomas, Council Member  
Chris Rader, Council Member

**Absent**

Ben Pierce, Council President Pro-Tem

**Staff**

Bea Meeks, City Clerk  
Sandra Riffle, Deputy City Clerk  
John Freeburg, Police Chief  
Shannon Patterson, Police Dept. Chief of Staff  
Stacey Salemi, Code Compliance Officer  
Chris Meade, Police Officer  
City Attorney, Drew Smith  
Ellen Hardgrove, AICP City Planner  
Allen Lane, P.E. CPH

**Applicant**

Sam Sebaali, P.E., FEG/Suncoast Building Materials

**Presenters**

Amy Bainbridge – Balmoral Group  
Richard Bernier – Balmoral Group  
Dan Dourte – Balmoral Group

Council President Horn announced a couple of changes to the order of the agenda, including moving Chief Freeburg's presentation and Boards and Committees (Suncoast Building Materials) forward. The City Attorney's report will follow the Ordinances.

## PRESENTATIONS

### a. Chief Freeburg

Chief Freeburg made a presentation to honor Officer Chris Meade, who responded to a citizen in distress and performed CPR. The citizen personally thanked Officer Meade for saving his life and said he was a living example of the Good Samaritan story. Chief Freeburg said Officer Meade is the lead CPR instructor for the Police Department.

### b. The Balmoral Group – American Rescue Plan (ARP) Discussion

**(Note: This presentation was moved in the agenda after Attorney Smith's Staff Report.)**

Individuals from The Balmoral Group introduced themselves to Council. Ms. Bainbridge from The Balmoral Group gave a PowerPoint presentation to Council to discuss ARP, including rules and eligibility and how to build back after the effects of Covid-19.

The Balmoral Group explained fund eligibility and provided a discussion of the relevant projects. Due to its population size, Edgewood is considered a non-entitlement unit via the 2019 Census. The first portion of the money was released in the fall, with the second in the summer of 2022.

Council discussed potential claims for revenue loss as a result of Covid-19 and considered the next steps for priority projects. Discussion focused on expanding wastewater treatment and shared stormwater systems.

**Code Compliance Officer Salemi left the meeting at 7:42 pm**

Mr. Dourte told Council that they would send the PowerPoint slides and a discussion summary.

## CONSENT AGENDA

**(The Consent Agenda was heard after the Police Department presentation).**

### Review and Approval of the minutes

#### a. October 19, 2021, City Council Meeting

- Mayor Dowless noted the following corrections –
  - Page 5 – insert “said” to read, “She said the speed sign is not working.”
  - Page 6 – 5<sup>th</sup> item – add “report” on the fifth item to read “realignment report”.
- Councilmember Lomas noted that page 4 was missing Councilmember Pierce's name for the vote.

***Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve the October 19, 2021 minutes as amended; second by Councilmember Lomas. Approved 4/0.***

**ORDINANCES (First Reading)**

None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS (Ordinances – Second Readings & Related Action)**

**(Note: Public Hearings were heard after Boards and Committees)**

**a. Ordinance 2021-11**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 134, “ZONING,” SECTION 134-514, RELATED TO AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATIONS; PROVIDING THAT AUTOMOBILE SERVICE STATIONS MAY BE PERMITTED IN THE CITY’S INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Smith read the Ordinance in title only.

There was no public comment or discussion.

*Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-11 on second reading; second by Councilmember Lomas. Approved by roll call vote 4/0.*

Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor
Councilmember Pierce	Absent

**b. ORDINANCE 2021-12 - Sign Code**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD, FLORIDA, RELATING TO SIGNS; AMENDING CHAPTER 122 OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REFINE DEFINITIONS AND CERTAIN REGULATORY TERMS TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION AND BETTER CLARITY IN INTERPRETATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Smith explained that Council tabled the Ordinance at the last meeting. There is a supplement to address temporary sign issues for more allowance for free speech signs. The City cannot regulate free speech content, such as political and real estate signs.

Residential properties can have one free speech sign at all times and more during elections. Commercial properties are somewhat more limited.

The sign code supplement is an amended ordinance that would create a new commercial district section. There are still concerns for sign clutter, and the amended ordinance could be put through on a trial basis as there is a sunset provision on November 31, 2022. If Council determines the changes do not work well, they can refuse to renew it, and it would fall out of the Code.

Discussion ensued amongst the Council regarding standard signage and an allowable number of signs on a commercial property. Snipe signs on the right-of-way will still not be permitted.

Councilmember Rader commented that he does not have a problem with the amended ordinance with the included sunset language.

Attorney Smith added that if there is a problem, Council does not have to wait for the sunset; it can go back through the ordinance process.

There was no public comment.

*Councilmember Rader made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-12, as amended by the supplemental materials; second by Councilmember Lomas. Approved 4/0.*

Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Pierce	Absent

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **FY 2020/2021 Final Budget Amendment**  
**RESOLUTION 2021-08 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EDGEWOOD AMENDING THE CITY’S BUDGET FOR THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Attorney Smith read Resolution 2021-08 in title only.

Mayor Dowless said that he discussed the budget summary with Tammy Campbell at McDirmot Davis, and reviewed the changes in revenue with Council. The City added approximately \$50,000 to unspent revenue.

In response to Councilmember Chotas, Mayor Dowless said the City is below the required cap of 75% for reserves.

In response to Councilmember Chotas, City Clerk Meeks said the City receives municipal estimates from the State. She added that the City prefers to use a guaranteed amount rather than depend on the estimates the State provides. If more revenues come in, then it is a bonus.

There was no public comment.

***Councilmember Chotas made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-08; second by Councilmember Rader. Approved by roll call vote 4/0.***

Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor
Councilmember Pierce	Absent

**GENERAL INFORMATION (No action required)**

None

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

**(Note: Boards and Committees was heard after the Consent Agenda)**

**a. Suncoast Building Materials Commercial Review**

Engineer Lane gave the history of the Suncoast Building Materials Commercial Review. Planning and Zoning conditioned their recommendation of approval that a report is provided demonstrating that the applicant is upholding the conditions of their 2016 Special Exception.

Engineer Lane noted that the stored materials are located with a 100-foot setback which exceeds the Special Exceptions condition of a 50-foot setback.

Engineer Lane visited the site earlier in the day and noted that the property was cleaned up. The property appears well maintained, including trash and debris, landscaping, and no grass and weeds growing within the outdoor stored materials. His inspection was satisfactory.

Councilmember Rader noted that the applicant did what was requested.

There were no public comments.

***Councilmember Rader made a motion to accept the Suncoast Building Materials Commercial Review; second by Councilmember Chotas. Approved by roll call vote (4/0).***

Councilmember Chotas	Favor
Councilmember Rader	Favor
Councilmember Lomas	Favor
Council President Horn	Favor
Councilmember Pierce	Absent

Councilmember Rader thanked the applicant for their effort since the last City Council Meeting.

<b>STAFF REPORTS</b>
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**(Note: Attorney Smith’s report was heard after Public Hearings)**

**a. City Attorney Smith**

- City Attorney Smith said that he has been working with Councilmember Rader and Planner Hardgrove on a zoning map for rezoning those properties annexed from Orange County but were not rezoned for Edgewood. There are a lot of properties that have been annexed since 1958 but not rezoned.

As site standards are slightly different in Orange County, this could result in nonconforming lots. A proposed solution is to create a new zoning classification in the Code to avoid that issue.

Planner Hardgrove said the new classification would allow platted subdivisions to have the site standards of the County but the uses of the City.

In response to Councilmember Rader, City Clerk Meeks said the few rezoned properties are Legacy, one parcel on Orange Avenue, and Boise Cascade.

In response to Council President Horn, Planner Hardgrove and Attorney Smith said the objective would be to have as few rezoning ordinances as possible while preserving due process rights. It is a name change, not a substantive change.

In response to Councilmember Rader, Mayor Dowless said a few properties on the south side of the City are interested in annexation. Attorney Smith responded they would have to be involuntary annexations because of the Pine Castle Preservation District, or there would be a required referendum.

Further discussion ensued regarding the proposed new zoning district. Planner Hardgrove said that she and Deputy City Clerk Riffle have frequent conversations about zoning for different properties. Attorney Smith added that he and Planner Hardgrove also have regular and lengthy discussions.

Council President Horn stated that it makes sense to move forward. Councilmember Lomas agreed.

- Attorney Smith then asked for direction from Council on a claim for subrogation from Belle Isle’s insurance regarding a police car accident that occurred in Belle Isle. Their demand was \$12,600, and Edgewood’s insurer proposed \$11,700.

Councilmember Chotas stated that direction should come from Mayor Dowless. There were no objections from City Council.

**b. Police Chief Freeburg**

- Police Chief Freeburg said the Police Department would begin block training.
- Code Compliance Officer Salemi passed her exam and is now a Level I Officer. She did very well in the Code Enforcement Hearing.
- The City is preparing for Santa’s arrival on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**c. City Clerk Meeks**

The transition has begun for her retirement and is picking up better. Administrative Assistant Sollazzo is an excellent addition to the team and is being trained by Deputy City Clerk Riffle.

**d. Deputy City Clerk Riffle**

- Cornerstone Charter Academy has requested a sponsorship of \$150 for their Festival of Trees in December. The City did not spend the money that Council approved in September for the Ducktoberfest event because the school is possibly rescheduling the event to February 2022. The school is not certain the event will take place.
- Pioneer Days requested sponsorship of \$275 to \$6500 for Pioneer Days.

The budget for donations for fiscal year 2021/2022 is \$500. Council decided to sponsor the Festival of Trees and a half-page ad for \$150 for Pioneer Days. Mayor Dowless suggested the ad address the “Fix Orange Avenue” realignment. Council agreed.

<b>MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS</b>
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- Mayor Dowless
  - Santa’s arrival will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> with a parade in the afternoon and light up the park, and a visit with Santa event in the evening. The Police Department puts a lot of effort into decorating City Hall and Police Department grounds.
  - Mayor Dowless and Planner Hardgrove have scheduled a Zoom call with Orange County regarding the Orange Avenue realignment at the end of the month.
  - Planning and Zoning Board members David Gragg, Steve Kreidt and Ryan Santurri’s terms expire at the end of December 2021. He recommended that all three Board Members continue service and asked City Council’s consent. There were no objections.
- Councilmember Chotas – no report
- Councilmember Rader – no report

- Councilmember Lomas report that little is going on with the Community Action Board (CAB). They meet monthly and talk about the budget and how to help people.
- Council President Horn asked Chief Freeburg about a call regarding a woman swimming in the lake at night. Chief Freeburg said that Officer Schlopy responded and was able to assist the woman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Chotas made the Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm; second by Councilmember Rader. Approved 4/0.



Richard A Horn  
Council President

Attest:



Bea L. Meeks, MMC, CPM, CBTO  
City Clerk

Approved in the 12-21-21 Council Meeting.